

## **ABSTRACT**

**CREATIVE PROJECT:** Edward Elgar's Cello Concerto: His Last Major Work

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Elgar's Cello Concerto is a four-movement work with distinct characters, and at times, a wailing cry from the soloist. It was written in the midst of war-ridden England; the composer was surrounded by disaster. This work is full of melancholy, introspection, and lyricism. Despite its poor reception at the premiere, a recording by British cellist Jacqueline du Pré caught the attention of the public. This recording earned the piece great popularity among cellists, and now the piece is part of the standard repertoire for the instrument.

The cello concerto is the last major work by Elgar despite the fact that he lived for more than a decade after its completion. This study has attempted to discover why. Evidence from his personal life, finances, and works completed during his last years suggests that Elgar struggled to complete another work after the premiere of the cello concerto. This lack of inspiration to create a new work came from the changes occurring in music during that time. Elgar also struggled to manage business and composition without the help of his wife, after her death. Instead of creating new pieces, Elgar focused on recording his previous masterpieces while employed with the Gramophone Company.